

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2 line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

The present inventor came to the striking realization that after extended viewing, storing, and editing digital images the image quality became increasingly increasingly more degraded. After further consideration of the unexpected image quality derelegation degradation the present inventor determined that the principal source of the image quality derelegation degradation is the modification of the image file itself between different applications.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 4, for example, if the image is captured or otherwise obtained in an initial format and thereafter modified to a different format for storage, modified for viewing, modified for editing, or otherwise modified, then the modifications will result in a derelegation degradation of the quality of the digital image.